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Hidden Gems of Singapore: 15 Lesser-Known Places Locals Love

When you think of Singapore, your mind probably jumps straight to Marina Bay Sands, Sentosa, and Gardens by the Bay—iconic landmarks that define this futuristic city. But what if I told you there's another side to Singapore, one that most tourists never experience?

Beyond the bright skyline and luxurious shopping malls lies a peaceful, authentic, and surprisingly wild Singapore. It's a city that perfectly blends modernity with heritage and nature.

This guide reveals 15 hidden gems of Singapore that locals adore, places that offer peace, adventure, culture, and connection. Whether you're visiting for the first time or looking to explore beyond the usual, these destinations will make your journey unforgettable.

Here's why Singapore is also perfect for families and honeymooners:

- **Family-Friendly Attractions:** Universal Studios, S.E.A. Aquarium, Jurong Bird Park, and interactive museums make it fun for all ages.
- **Romantic Spots for Couples:** Sunset river cruises, Gardens by the Bay, Lazarus Island, and cozy boutique hotels offer dreamy experiences for honeymooners.
- **Blend of Modernity & Heritage:** From luxury shopping and rooftop dining to cultural hubs like Chinatown and Little India, there's something for everyone.
- **Safety & Convenience:** One of the safest cities with excellent public transport, ideal for families and couples.
- **Food for Everyone:** From hawker centres serving local delicacies to fine dining with city views.
- **Adventure & Nature:** Nature walks, wildlife encounters at Singapore Zoo or Night Safari, and Sentosa attractions offer fun and excitement.

Let's dive into the secret side of Singapore, crafted especially for travellers looking for something new.

1. Coney Island – Singapore's Wild Escape

Far from the city buzz, Coney Island (also known as Pulau Serangoon) is a sanctuary of nature. The island is part of the Punggol district and is connected to the mainland by a small bridge. Here, you'll find cycling paths, forest trails, and deserted beaches that make you forget you're in one of the world's busiest cities.

Locals come here for picnics, birdwatching, and photography. Keep an eye out for native long-tailed macaques and exotic birds fluttering among the casuarina trees.

How to reach: Take the MRT to Punggol station and rent a bicycle from Punggol Settlement. The ride to Coney Island takes around 10 minutes.

Why visit: It's a quiet haven — perfect for couples seeking privacy or families wanting an eco-friendly adventure. Add it to your Singapore trip package for family for a refreshing start.

2. Lazarus Island – The Secret Beach Getaway

If you dream of soft white sands and turquoise waters but dislike crowded beaches, Lazarus Island is your paradise. Located south of Singapore's main island, Lazarus is part of the Southern Islands group and remains blissfully untouched.

You can pack a picnic, swim in calm waters, or just relax under the sun. It's often called "Singapore's hidden Maldives", romantic, peaceful, and stunningly beautiful.

How to reach: Take a ferry from Marina South Pier to St. John's Island, then walk over to Lazarus (a 10-minute stroll).

Why visit: Ideal for honeymooners and couples booking a Singapore tour package for couples who want a slice of tropical paradise without leaving the country.

Pro tip: Visit early morning or on weekdays to enjoy the beach almost to yourself.

3. Tiong Bahru – The Vintage Charm of Old Singapore

Nestled between Chinatown and Orchard, Tiong Bahru is one of Singapore's most fascinating neighborhoods. Built in the 1930s, it's a blend of Art Deco architecture and hip modern cafes. Stroll through its lanes and you'll find vintage bookstores, boutique stores, and heritage murals depicting daily life in old Singapore.

Must-visit spots:

- **Tiong Bahru Bakery** for freshly baked croissants.
- **BooksActually** – an iconic indie bookstore loved by locals.
- **Qi Tian Gong Temple** – one of the oldest monkey god temples.

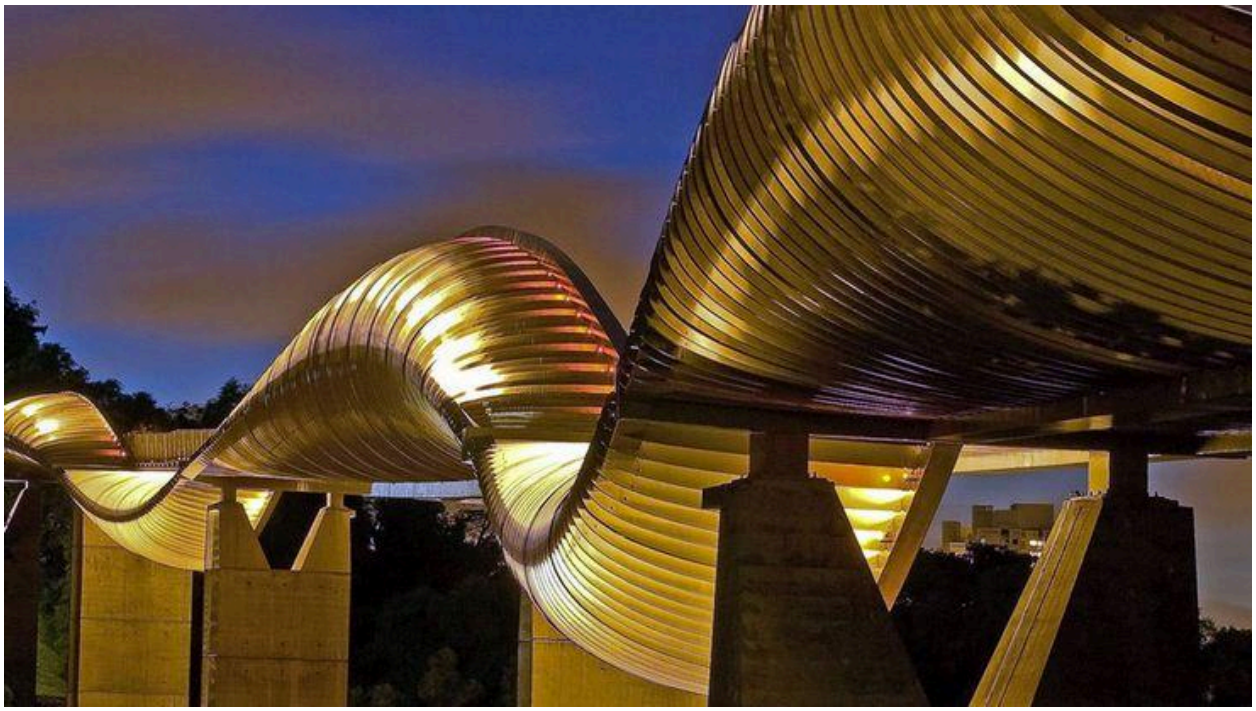
Why visit: A perfect blend of culture and coffee — great for those who enjoy slow travel. Include it in your best Singapore tour packages itinerary for a relaxed urban day.

4. The Southern Ridges – A Scenic Green Trail

The Southern Ridges is a 10-km walking trail connecting Singapore's green parks — Mount Faber, Telok Blangah Hill, and Kent Ridge Park. It offers panoramic city views and lush nature. The highlight is the Henderson Waves Bridge, Singapore's highest pedestrian bridge, designed in a unique wave-like structure. Walking here during sunset gives you one of the most photogenic moments in Singapore.

Why visit: Perfect for hikers, photographers, and adventure lovers seeking a different kind of adventure tour Singapore experience.

Pro tip: Start early from Mount Faber and end at HortPark for a complete nature experience.



5. Kampong Lorong Buangkok – The Last Traditional Village

Amid Singapore's skyscrapers, Lorong Buangkok is a glimpse into the past — the city's last surviving kampong (village). Wooden houses, chickens running freely, and friendly neighbors create an atmosphere that feels frozen in time. It's an emotional journey into how Singapore once looked before urban transformation.

Why visit: A living piece of heritage and culture — perfect for travelers who love local experiences and authentic storytelling.

Note: Be respectful; it's a private residential area.

6. Haw Par Villa – The Park of Legends and Myths

Built in 1937 by the creators of Tiger Balm, Haw Par Villa is a one-of-a-kind theme park based on Chinese mythology and folklore. It's filled with over 1,000 vivid statues and dioramas that narrate ancient legends. The most famous exhibit, *The Ten Courts of Hell* — vividly depicts moral lessons from Chinese beliefs.

Why visit: Unique, quirky, and educational — this park is a cultural treasure. Great addition to Singapore travel packages for culture enthusiasts.

7. Gillman Barracks – Art, Culture, and Creativity

Once a British military base, Gillman Barracks has transformed into Singapore's leading art district. It features over 10 international galleries, experimental art installations, and creative cafes.

What to see: The NTU Centre for Contemporary Art and occasional art festivals where artists interact directly with visitors.

Why visit: A great spot for art lovers and culture seekers looking to blend sophistication with leisure. It fits perfectly into luxury tours in Singapore for a classy cultural stop.

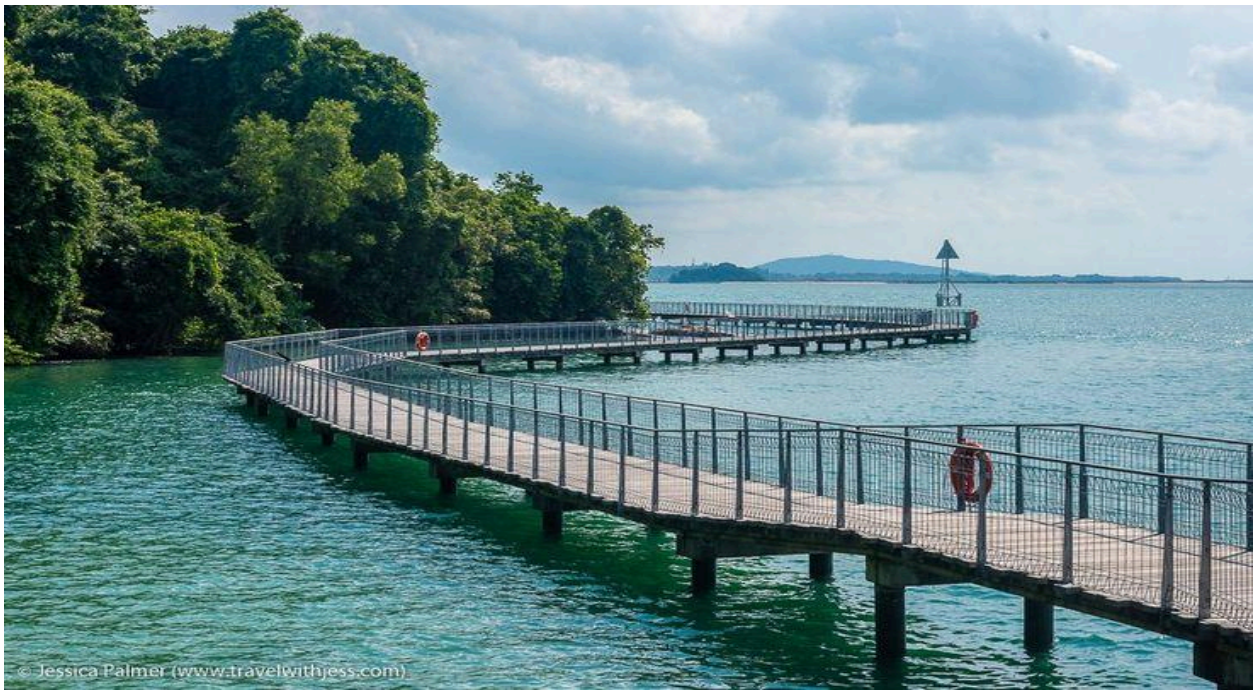
8. Pulau Ubin – The Island Frozen in Time

Step back in time on Pulau Ubin, a rustic island northeast of Singapore. Wooden kampong houses, coconut trees, and untouched nature give a nostalgic feel.

Rent a bicycle and explore Chek Jawa Wetlands, where you'll see mangroves, mudskippers, and marine life. Locals love its peaceful charm — a rare taste of Singapore's countryside life.

How to reach: Take a bumboat from Changi Point Ferry Terminal (only $4 one way).

Why visit: Perfect for eco-lovers, families, or anyone looking to experience old Singapore. It's often included in eco-focused Singapore tour packages.



9. Bukit Brown Cemetery – History Among Nature

One of the world's largest Chinese cemeteries, **Bukit Brown** is both a historical landmark and a serene green space. Over 100,000 graves of early settlers rest here, surrounded by wildlife and dense trees.

Guided tours by volunteers reveal fascinating stories about Singapore's pioneers.

Why visit: A thought-provoking site that connects heritage, history, and nature — great for heritage lovers exploring Singapore tour guides.

10. Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve – A Nature Sanctuary

Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve is Singapore's first ASEAN Heritage Park. It's a paradise for birdwatchers and photographers. You might spot migratory birds, monitor lizards, and even crocodiles!

Wooden boardwalks and observation hides let you enjoy the wetlands up close.

Why visit: For those seeking calm, fresh air, and natural beauty — ideal for a relaxing day during a Singapore trip package for family.

Pro tip: Bring binoculars and visit during the migratory season (Sept–March).

11. Labrador Nature Reserve – The Coastal Hideaway

Located near HarbourFront, Labrador Nature Reserve combines history, sea views, and peaceful greenery. It was once part of Singapore's coastal defense line, and remnants of WWII tunnels still exist here. The scenic coastal walk is perfect for sunset lovers, joggers, or couples looking for quiet time together.

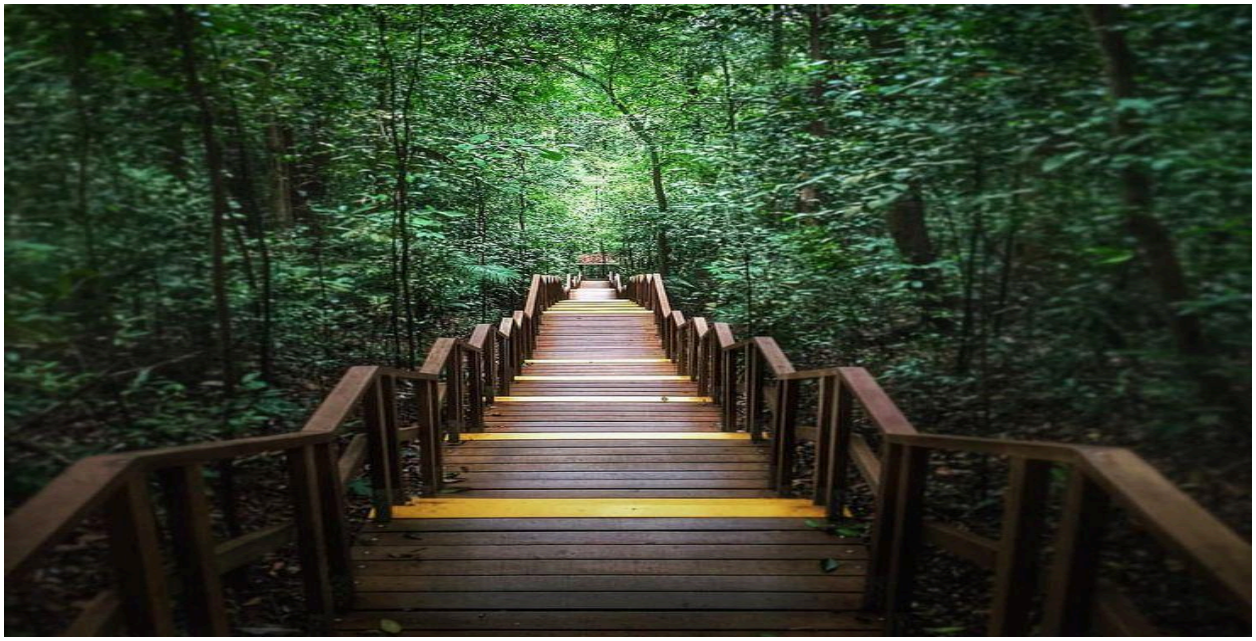
Why visit: For its combination of history, romance, and nature — a great spot for those on a Singapore tour package for couples.

12. MacRitchie Reservoir Park – The Nature Adventure

If you love outdoor adventures, MacRitchie Reservoir Park is a must-visit. It's Singapore's oldest reservoir, offering activities like hiking, kayaking, and the iconic TreeTop Walk, a suspension bridge high above the forest. The 11-km loop trail rewards you with views of tropical rainforest and wildlife such as monkeys and flying lemurs.

Why visit: It's one of the best spots for fitness enthusiasts or nature seekers enjoying an adventure tour Singapore experience.

Pro tip: Carry water and mosquito repellent, and start early to avoid heat.



13. Little Guilin – The Hidden Chinese Landscape

Hidden in Bukit Batok Town Park, Little Guilin features majestic rock cliffs and calm waters that resemble Guilin in China. It's peaceful, picturesque, and often used as a photography or filming spot.

Why visit: Ideal for evening walks, quiet reflection, or photography. Its calmness and beauty make it a romantic hidden gem for couples.

14. Kranji Countryside – Singapore's Green Heart

Most people don't imagine farms in Singapore — but the Kranji Countryside proves otherwise! This region is full of lush farms offering fresh produce, eco-tours, and family activities. Visit Bollywood Veggies (an organic farm and café), Hay Dairies (Singapore's only goat farm), or Jurong Frog Farm for a fun, educational experience.

Why visit: A must for families and kids, showing Singapore's sustainable side. Add it to your Singapore trip package for family for a wholesome outing.

15. Yunnan Garden – A Tranquil Gem Within NTU

Located within Nanyang Technological University, Yunnan Garden is a beautifully landscaped park with lakes, pavilions, and walking trails. After its recent renovation, it has become a favorite among locals seeking peace and quiet. It's ideal for early morning strolls or evening relaxation, surrounded by nature and traditional Chinese design.

Why visit: Peaceful, scenic, and rarely crowded — a perfect escape from the city rush.

Bonus: Quick Tips for Exploring Singapore's Hidden Side

- **Best Time to Visit:** February to April — pleasant weather and fewer crowds.
- **Getting Around:** Buy an EZ-Link card for unlimited MRT and bus rides.
- **Local Etiquette:** Keep public spaces clean; chewing gum and littering are fined.
- **Useful Apps:** Grab (for taxis), Citymapper (for navigation), and Klook (for tickets).

- **Must-Try Local Dishes:** Laksa, chili crab, roti prata, and nasi lemak.

Why Explore Hidden Singapore?

Singapore is often seen as futuristic and urban — but beneath that modern surface lies an island of culture, nature, and stories. Visiting these hidden gems gives you an authentic taste of the real Singapore — its heritage, its people, and its peaceful charm. Whether you're on a romantic getaway, a family trip, or a solo adventure, exploring offbeat spots helps you connect with Singapore's heart.

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Final Words

Singapore may be small, but it's full of surprises waiting to be discovered. Step off the usual tourist route and you'll uncover a city that's vibrant, soulful, and full of hidden beauty. Whether it's the calm beaches of Lazarus Island, the nostalgic charm of Pulau Ubin, or the creative energy at Gillman Barracks, every secret corner of Singapore tells its own story. To truly explore these hidden gems, travel with Baafila Travels. Baafila Travels is one of the best travel agency in Lucknow, known for creating unforgettable journeys with expert guides, personalized itineraries, and seamless experiences. From romantic Singapore tour packages for couples to family adventures, luxury tours, and adventure tour Singapore, we design every trip to be special. To know more about us, visit our About Us page or contact us to start your next unforgettable journey here.